

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION	:	
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
NICOLE SORCE, RN	:	
License No. 26NR11245100	:	FINAL ORDER
	:	OF DISCIPLINE
TO PRACTICE NURSING	:	
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing (the "Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Nicole Sorce ("Respondent") is licensed as a registered professional nurse in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all relevant times.

2. The Board received information that in or about November 2010, Bergen Regional Medical Center suspended Respondent's employment as a nurse pending an investigation of drug diversion and impairment. Respondent's employment was subsequently terminated in or about March 2011.

3. On or about November 14, 2011, the Board sent Respondent a Demand for Written Statement Under Oath to her address of record in Medford Lakes, New Jersey via regular and certified mail seeking information about the 2011 termination. The Demand reminded respondent of her statutory and regulatory duty to cooperate with a Board investigation. The regular mailing was not returned, however, the certified mailing was returned as unclaimed and unable to forward. The returned mail also had a "notify sender of new address" sticker which indicated an address in Linden, New Jersey.

4. On or about December 16, 2011, the Board sent Respondent a second notice to the address in Linden, New Jersey via regular and certified mail seeking information about the 2011 termination. The second notice advised that failure to respond may result in suspension of Respondent's license and imposition of penalties. The second notice also advised Respondent of her regulatory obligation to notify the Board of any change of address within thirty days of the change. Again, the regular mailing was not returned, but the certified mailing was returned as unclaimed and unable to forward.

5. To date, Respondent has failed to reply.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's failures to respond to the Board's inquiries constitute failures to cooperate with Board investigations, in

contravention of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2 - 1.3, which the Board deems professional misconduct within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e), and thus subjects Respondent to disciplinary action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h). Additionally, Respondent's failure to notify the Board of a change of address constitutes a failure to comply with a regulation administered by the Board within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h).

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on June 27, 2012, provisionally suspending respondent's nursing license, and imposing a \$200.00 civil penalty. A copy of the Order was forwarded to respondent by certified and regular mail at her address of record. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup> business day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order, and furnished a response to the Demand for Written Statement Under Oath. The Board considered this matter, and inasmuch as

belatedly a complete response had been provided, the Board determined that suspension was no longer applicable. However, the Board noted that respondent had failed to notify the Board of a change in her address of record, and failed to timely respond to the Board's request for information. The Board therefore determined that the Provisional Order of Discipline should be finalized, imposing the \$200.00 civil penalty.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2013,  
ORDERED that:

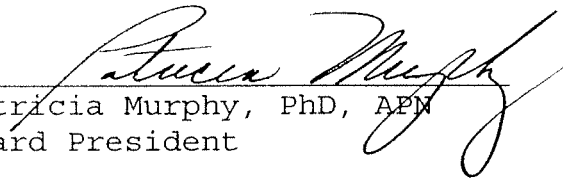
1. A civil penalty in the amount of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) is hereby imposed upon Respondent for the failure to cooperate. Payment shall be made by certified check or money order payable to the State of New Jersey, delivered to George Hebert, Executive Director, State of Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Payment shall be made no later than fifteen (15) days after the entry of any Final Order of Discipline in this matter. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

2. Nothing herein precludes the Board from undertaking disciplinary action regarding the underlying conduct that gave

rise to the investigation.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

  
Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN  
Board President